

November 3, 2020

To the Montgomery County Council:

Between March 30, 2020, when our daycare had to close due to COVID-19, and July 22, 2020, when our daycare was able to re-open, was the most challenging time for me and my husband in our careers, as we struggled to work from home while taking care of our 19 month-old son without any support.

The decision in March to close all daycare centers except those designated to serve essential personnel was a mistake, albeit, a reasonable one, since COVID-19 was new, and we did not have enough data on the spread of the virus through daycare centers.

However, the data is available now – a recent Yale University study, [published in the journal, Pediatrics](#), that surveyed more than 57,000 childcare workers across all 50 states found that:

“No differences in COVID-19 outcomes were observed between workers who continued to provide in-person care for young children and those who did not. These findings suggest that child care providers assume no heightened risk from their work — assuming that workplaces keep following core health and safety practices.”¹

Therefore, a decision to shut down daycare centers again, or even a decision to decrease the capacity to 50%, as proposed, would be an unnecessary mistake that would have damaging effects to so many families residing in Montgomery County, as well as the county economy.

Furthermore, there are numerous articles that show that women have had to leave the workforce as a result of having to balance 24/7 childcare without support and work.² I have worked very hard to get to where I am in my career. Please do not force me and thousands of others to have to choose between taking care of their children and their careers. Daycare centers are not only essential for essential workers; they are essential for all families forced to work from home.

I urge you to please vote against reducing child care centers’ capacity by 50 percent.

Sincerely,
Vedia Eidelman, Esq.

¹ “Child care not associated with spread of COVID-19, Yale study finds,” (Oct. 16, 2020), <https://news.yale.edu/2020/10/16/child-care-not-associated-spread-covid-19-yale-study-finds>.

² See Abby Vesoulis, “If We Had a Panic Button, We’d be Hitting it.’ Women Are Exiting the Labor Force En Masse—And That’s Bad For Everyone,” Forbes (Oct. 17, 2020), <https://time.com/5900583/women-workforce-economy-covid/>; “Enough Already: Multiple Demands Causing Women To Abandon Workforce,” NPR (Oct. 2, 2020), <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/10/02/919517914/enough-already-multiple-demands-causing-women-to-abandon-workforce>; “Covid-19 Is Forcing Women From The Workplace In Record Numbers—And We Don’t Know When They’ll Be Back,” Forbes (Oct. 19, 2020), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/advisor/2020/10/19/women-are-leaving-the-workplace-in-record-numbers-and-we-dont-know-when-theyll-be-back/?sh=26fa63536ab5>; Isaac Chotiner, “Why the Pandemic is Forcing Women Out of the Workforce,” The New Yorker (Oct. 23, 2020), <https://www.newyorker.com/news/q-and-a/why-the-pandemic-is-forcing-women-out-of-the-workforce>.